

DAME FASHION OUT-KAISERS WILHELM AS DESPOT

Obedient Subjects Defy Defamers; Cry in '60s Was "Wear Them Shorter"

By MARY E. VITOU

THE TEXT for this morning's discourse will be found elsewhere in this paper, on the lips of the young cynics doing a Greek chorus on any prominent street corner, in the congressional record, in the quaint old newspaper of civil war days and verily in the sermons of Solomon.

The object around which have revolved the thoughts of the world's deepest thinkers is said to be an inexorable monarch more absolute than the ex-kaiser in his palmiest days. This sovereign whose revenue collections are exacted from subjects numbering an enormous percentage of the world's population was strangely overlooked by the peace conference delegates when those august gentlemen assembled to banish despotism. And yet her most terrible decrees were being exemplified on the very boulevards through which the delegates passed on their daily excursions about Paris.

WHANGDOODLE FUR ONCE VOGUE

She who rules so ostensibly her subservient vassals must be a very old woman indeed, for she was receiving homage from primitive maidens when the short costumes conceived in woven grass a la natural were giving away to more tailored effects of uneven hem line fashioned from whangdoodle fur and trimmed with dinosaur teeth. Dame Fashion, is heralded this wondrous, ever-living, ever-youthful creature, and she sways absolutely her subjects who live in the land of Style.

Her favorite sport and the one which occupies all her leisure hours is given over to the creation of fancies and frivolities for women's wearing apparel. Her life work to which she is very devoted, consists of elaborating and weaving new styles from those introduced by her at previous periods in her career.

Various and fantastic are the state decrees which she launches upon a willing but sometimes dubious world. She sits upon a throne built by herself from the ravings of successful fashions about which she has come to time enveloped hostages that come to her constantly as debutantes, middle-aged spinsters who have just awakened to her lure or the "57 varieties" of fair, fat and 40 who find in meek obedience to her dictates new lease on elusive fascination.

Although, in the main, her mandates are accepted with submission, there are those with bolshievistic tendencies even in so enchanting a kingdom. As will always exist in the realm of an absolute monarch, there is ever present an undercurrent of grumbling and occasionally threats of revolution.

SURVIVES CENTURIES OF CRITICISM

Through it all, Dame Fashion sits complacently, smiles indulgently, and finally when the rebellious ones are about to precipitate her smug little kingdom into a sartorial battle, she draws her cohorts about her and comes forth armed with such an alluring new bonnet and evening wrap that her refractory subjects immediately succumb to her implements of war, declare a truce and assist in celebration of her victory by rushing to the nearest modiste and ordering replicas of her battle regalia.

Yesterday



Lots of things can happen in a few years. This is what happened to Mrs. Harry Barnes when she donned the frock of a belle of 60 years ago. You will agree that the charm of the picture lies not in the costume so much as in the wearer.

Little as treacherous sometimes practiced by her own followers worry her, even less does she fear the virulent aspersions of mere man for she has become wise in their dissertations through long centuries of critical comment. Madam Fashion scans the scathing words from the pen of her masculine critic and continues to produce new and startling effects. The fashion mentor knows well that adverse opinion serves to implant her modes more deeply in feminine desire.

From earliest days man has devoted much valuable time to denouncing the fair lady and the fruits of her labor. If you do not believe, read a chapter or so from

Ecclesiastes, the quaint old civil war newspaper, some musty congressional record, listen to the quips of the group of young cynics on the street corner or turn to the editorial section or the comic sheet of any modern newspaper.

Evolution of styles through turbulent centuries has brought no constructive criticism from the half of the world which worships at other shines than that of Fashion. Perhaps the Lady needed no suggestions from rank outsiders for her career, though checked, has been decidedly progressive as substantiated by the fact that she has changed her tactics so many times and progress is not static.

GRANDMA'S WARDROBE NEEDED CARD INDEX. Present day styles, of course, have undergone the tortures of the rack and the thumb screw and have emerged little the worse for wear. Those who abjure the abbreviated modes of skirts, bodices, sleeves, hose and locks, and mourn for the vogue of yesterday, might do well to give an unprejudiced comparison of the mode of the moment and that of civil war days.

Contemporary press comments of '61 decide the dress of the women as being immodest, extravagant, unhealthful and unbecoming. For those whose memories do not extend so remotely or for those who have not visualized in imagination Grandmother's street attire, a word portrayal of her costume may serve to elicit a vote in favor of the 1921 dress.

Grandmother, if she were fortunate, spent comparatively more time and expense on her wardrobe than does the maid or matron of today. Her dress for church or social functions was of heaviest silk, often corded or brocaded. Its weight alone was sufficient to carry on one pair of shoulders but fashion dictated embellishments, heavy and numerous. There was a heavy lace collar that clung to the high-throated gown, sleeves, rings and puffs weighing on shoulders, huge bell sleeves, unbelievably confining bodices held in rigid place by steel stays, skirts tiered and draped and panned all on the same costume, an availing from the diminutive waistline to the very heels of milady's best frock. And that was not all. It was customary to possess a sufficient number of petticoats to make the all ready stiff skirt resemble a huge balloon. Sometimes the skirt was draped on a wire frame held extended by hoops, so that milady carried a miniature hardware shop concealed in voluminous folds of her garb. Probably grandmother's costume numbered more single articles of apparel than the modern girl finds in her entire wardrobe.

Her feet were unceremoniously squeezed into miniature boots or pumps, the toes of which very modestly peeped from under the hem of her gown on very rare occasions. From her ears were suspended long and heavy earrings of gold, onyx or enamel, immense affairs they were and weighty. A concourse of chains, bangles and sunbursts reposed more or less peaceably on the embroidered bodice. Lace mitts enveloped her hands, which were adorned with rings and which held the ever-present reticule, vignette, fan, kerchief and doubtless a small parasol if she walked out or rode.

"MAKE 'EM SHORTER" CRY OF '60s.

They say that grandmother was a very fragile creature and yet she managed to go about her household and social duties bearing the weight of fashion on her

Today



The modernity of the girl of today, most acceptably exemplified by Mrs. "Betty" Vogt.

shoulders. It is possible that the fashions themselves may have been responsible for milady's inability to withstand such nervous shocks as proposals for marriage or spilled milk.

A clipping from a civil war paper has this to say about the styles affected by women of the day:

"Long Dresses—We do not see one lady in 10 walking the streets without a constant fussing with the long skirts of her dress. Some pin them up at regular spaces, giving them a very rumpled appearance others wear 'pages' or an elastic cord just below the waistline, pulling up their dress just as our grandmothers did when they went to scrub the kitchen, others frantically seize the side breadth, holding them in front, having the appearance of sitting down at the first convenient opportunity. Some walk on, letting their dress hang till suddenly brought up on the front breadth, stumble, flounder, pull and try it again. Now all this could be avoided. Modesty and respect for the opinions of mankind demand a reformation in this matter. We have only given a fair weather view of this matter. If ladies would put a quarter of a yard less in the length of their dresses they would save the amount the goods cost and much public observation."

Immodesty, thy name is legion! Day before yesterday women concealed modesty with numerous, heavy and lengthy contraptions of apparel. Today through a gradual discarding of superfluous articles of adornment, women do not reveal modesty, according to cynical comment.

Picture the girl of today, for the most part effervescent with health and good spirits, frank in dress and speech, graceful to a degree unattainable by her grandmother hampered with skirts and skirts and skirts tight shoes, high collars, and pinched waists; yet withal high-minded, broad-viewed and tolerant and certainly efficient in business and charming in society.

DEFIES CALUMNY OF TODAY.

There are a great many things to be said in defense of modern dress. First it is conducive to health, being sufficient, but light, and made to hang loosely and gracefully. It is beautiful, also women, greatest judges of beauty, would not have accepted it. It is symbolic of the age, practical and at the same time attractive.

Fashion, though a pleasing and fanciful sovereign, like other modern rulers, is passing so far as the feminine woman is concerned. She recently signed a declaration of independence by refusing to accept new and ridiculous modes sent forth from the royal shops in that capital of Style, Paris.

Too bad to disappoint the masculine world craving a change in women's styles, but Miss 1921 achieved such a success in creating her own fashions that she will continue to display her work of art unchanged—at least for a while longer. Despite calumnious remarks from masculinity, we fancy our frocks are as well liked by others as by ourselves.

PARK BOARD SEES CONSERVATORY NEED

Renew Consideration of Leeper Palm and Show House

BY GRANT LEWIS.

SOUTH BEND boasts of a total of 18 parks. For a city of approximately 75,000 inhabitants, the northern Indiana metropolis lays claim to a park system, compared in size and beauty equal to any other city in the middle west. The total park area, owned by the city and under the control and supervision of a non-political body, the board of park commissioners, covers a territory wide in scope and approximately 400 acres, greater than the area of the entire business district.

With the exception of only two of these 18 beauty spots, with their natural abundance of greenward and natural foliage, these parks have been planted within their borders that most necessary of all things to beauty—flower beds and transplanted shrubbery.

Although natural forests, lawns, lakes and streams are necessary to

loves him still. The maiden will strip a rose to make for her hero a boutonniere and collect the price for the effort with a blushing kiss. It is flowing that speak the language of love. And to the sick and the dead, flowers go forth as symbols of what the world holds the most beautiful and treasured manifestation of love we can give to those most dear.

There are some interesting facts gleaned from a survey of the floral beds set out in the city's parks. In the 16 parks in which there is artificial floral decoration, there are in round numbers about 40,000 annuals and perennials set out on the mounds and beds of the different parks each year. In addition to these 40,000 flowers, of which there is about an equal number of annuals and perennials, landscape gardeners of the park board obtain rootings for nearly 20,000 shrubs in the fall of the year for

brought forth from their seed in the spring and die with the changing season.

The glass shed in Howard park in which the principal work of propagating the hardier park plants is carried forth, is not more than average residence garage in size. Its dimensions measure a scant 18 by 30 feet. As to pretentiousness, it falls far short of what a florist would call a good piece of "glass" even if of half its size. There is nothing particularly inviting about the lean-to's sloping exterior, unless it be the ground around it. But the interior has its charms. At the entrance the heavy fragrance of the greenhouse greets the nostrils and on entering under the glass one finds himself in a maze of a glorious floral kingdom. On every side is flowers, in bed and in bloom. Flowers of every shade of color and odor. The scintillating radiance of the sunlight beating

of raising and setting out the plants. The board of park commissioners leased the property and built the cold frames four years ago when the need of additional space commensurate with the growth of the city's striking system became apparent. It is recognized that they are inadequate for the work required of them now and in line with the recent requests made to increase floral decorations in various parks.

"The need of better greenhouse facilities for the city has been apparent for many years," said Arthur P. Perley, secretary and superintendent of the park board, recently. "There is probably nothing so important to a park system as essential housing to carry on the work of propagating flowers and shrubs for planting purposes."

According to Mr. Perley the cold frames and the lean-to have outgrown their present usefulness.

sought to make estimates on a proposed stretch of greenhouses and the idea looking toward the building of a conservatory finally took form. Through an exchange of correspondence carried on between the park board and the Lord & Burnham Co., greenhouse designers and manufacturers, of New York, this firm submitted plans and specifications calling for a conservatory of goodly proportions, the total cost of which, exclusive of the extra expense of a furnace room, was estimated to be \$43,351. The city was prepared at that time, it was said, to do the floor and all work up to the glass, which was estimated to cost \$12,332. The cost of the unbreakable glass at the peak of its prices, would have run a total of \$35,889. This cost, however, was held to be prohibitive at the time and further tentative plans to secure a conservatory for South Bend were abandoned.

With the reduced costs of building, the idea has come to the fore again, judging by expressions given by park board officials, public spirited citizens and members of civic organizations recently, the forecast of a conservatory in one of our city parks sometime within the next year or two is opportune.

Estimate Cost at \$45,000.

According to specifications by Lord & Burnham the park board for a range of glass, and which was staked off in Leeper park south of the North pumping station about 100 feet, the proposed conservatory would consist of a palm house 31 feet three inches wide by 42 feet four inches long under the dome, two show houses each 23 feet by 50 feet, three greenhouses each 25 feet by 75 feet; a passage house 11 feet by eight feet four inches, and two propagating houses each 11 feet by eight feet four inches.

By locating the conservatory close to the pumping station there would be no necessity of the extra expense of a furnace room as the heat for the range of glass would be secured from the exhaust steam generated by the boilers in the pumping station. The cost of construction, according to building with the present reduction in building costs, should not exceed \$45,000, is the opinion of local builders. There is likelihood, according to these same men, of the cost of the range of glass not exceeding \$40,000 built today.

"Not only would such a conservatory be a great work of beauty and distinguish the park where it is located," said Mr. Perley, "but the need of it for propagating purposes is very necessary."

Civic Organizations Could Help.

The park board itself has no means by which it can have a conservatory erected. Such an undertaking would be required to go before the common council and with present levies there is no reason to believe the council would see fit to pass this expense to the city's taxpayers. According to present indications, the only way that South Bend will get its conservatory, if it insists upon having it, will be through private donations.

The idea has been expressed by several interested in seeing the city have the show and propagating greenhouses that various civic organizations could assist each of its members a small amount and the money be raised and presented to the city for the purpose intended. The idea has been brought up in other cities, it is said, and has proved a success.

FITCH WOULD BE HERO NOW

Documents Prove Rum Inventor's Hobby

BY JOHN H. ZUVER, JR.

IDEALIST, adventurer and inventor were the roles played in the life of John Fitch, rival of Robert Fulton for honors as inventor of the steamboat, according to information gathered by Col. C. Seymour Bullock, city recreational director, who has taken a deep interest in the history of the life of Fitch and who has several documents in his keeping that record his accomplishments.

Fitch also wrote a song or so, and it was meddled with the sharps and flats that turned him undoubtedly into an idealist. Fitch's song has lived down through the ages, although revised several times. The original version of "Little Brown Jug" came to the world through the work of the inventor. This seems to have been the pride of his life, as Col. Bullock's records show that when he died in Kentucky in 1793, he left a will providing that his entire inheritance should go to the person who would yearly on Feb. 1, stand on his grave and sing the words of "The Little Brown Jug." It specified further, that after these ceremonies, the singer should take the audience of the solo to a saloon and "set 'em up" to whiskey, all meanwhile thanking God they were alive and not dead as their benefactor.

Drys May Well Rejoice.

What a grave mistake was made by the Almighty in not bringing him to earth 200 years later! In more recent years, what a champion he would have been for the anti-prohibition cause! It would be an interesting battle, Gov. Edwards and John Fitch lined up against William Jennings Bryan and the Anti-Saloon league! Prohibitionists will agree it was for the good of the nation that he was born in the earlier day.

The inventor, who in those colonial days found it necessary to go to foreign nations for backing in his projects, would today have been flooded with capital, for he would have been the idol of no small number of Americans in these days of aridity. In this respect, he resembles Caesar, Lincoln, Wilson and a long list of notables who, historians say, lived in advance of "their time."

His drawing of "the first water-cooled cylinder" reproduced for the reader, immediately impressed the city editor as being a likeness of a still, and after the drawing had been explained he still insisted that this story should reflect its relation to the Volstead act. By displaying this drawing today, the average man would imagine that it was a perspective of a new kind of home brew factory, and the inventor's treasury would be flooded with donations with which to proceed in the building of his steamboat projects.

Fancy a Cruise With Him.

The budget of the first steamboat cruise reveals Fitch's prices for beer were on a par with those of the modern bootlegger. Beer in those days cost on his steamship one shilling, or in our medium of exchange, 25 cents. Even with the po-

lice force peeking into our soft drink parlors now and then, the price very seldom passes the quarter mark. Porter was sold on the ships in those days at about 37 cents a bottle. How Fitch would be his passenger vessels by the means of this sale in these A. D. Volstead days.

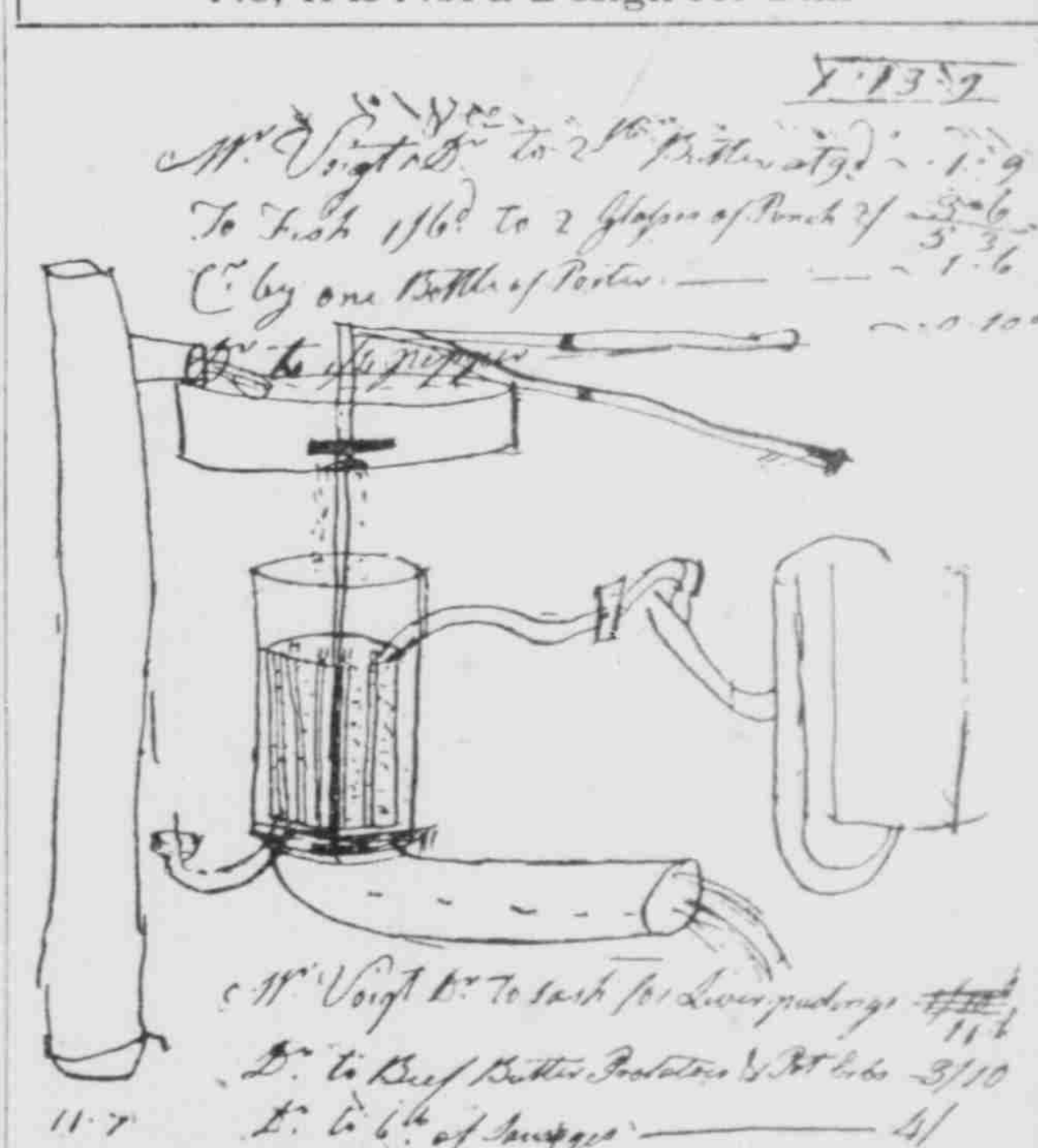
Exit Fitch, the idealist! Enter Fitch, the adventurer! His adventures came as a young man when he left his home in New Windsor and enlisted with the revolutionary forces, being soon appointed to the rank of a Lieutenant. While still in the service he was captured in West Pennsylvania by Indians and spirited

To raise capital to construct his steamboat, Fitch gave to the world his knowledge of the west, drawing a map of the country surrounding the Great Lakes. These were sold by a Miss Patterson, Fitch receiving sufficient profit to construct his first steamboat.

The map drawn by Fitch has come into prominence today in a controversy over the state boundary lines that divide Illinois and Wisconsin and Indiana and Illinois. Col. Bullock states it will undoubtedly go a long way in settling the dispute.

The drawing of the first water-cooled cylinder that Col. Bullock

No, It Is Not a Design for Still



Photograph is that of the original drawing of the first water-cooled cylinder made by John Fitch in 1785. The drawing was found by Col. C. Seymour Bullock about 30 years ago in a New Haven, Conn., second-hand store.

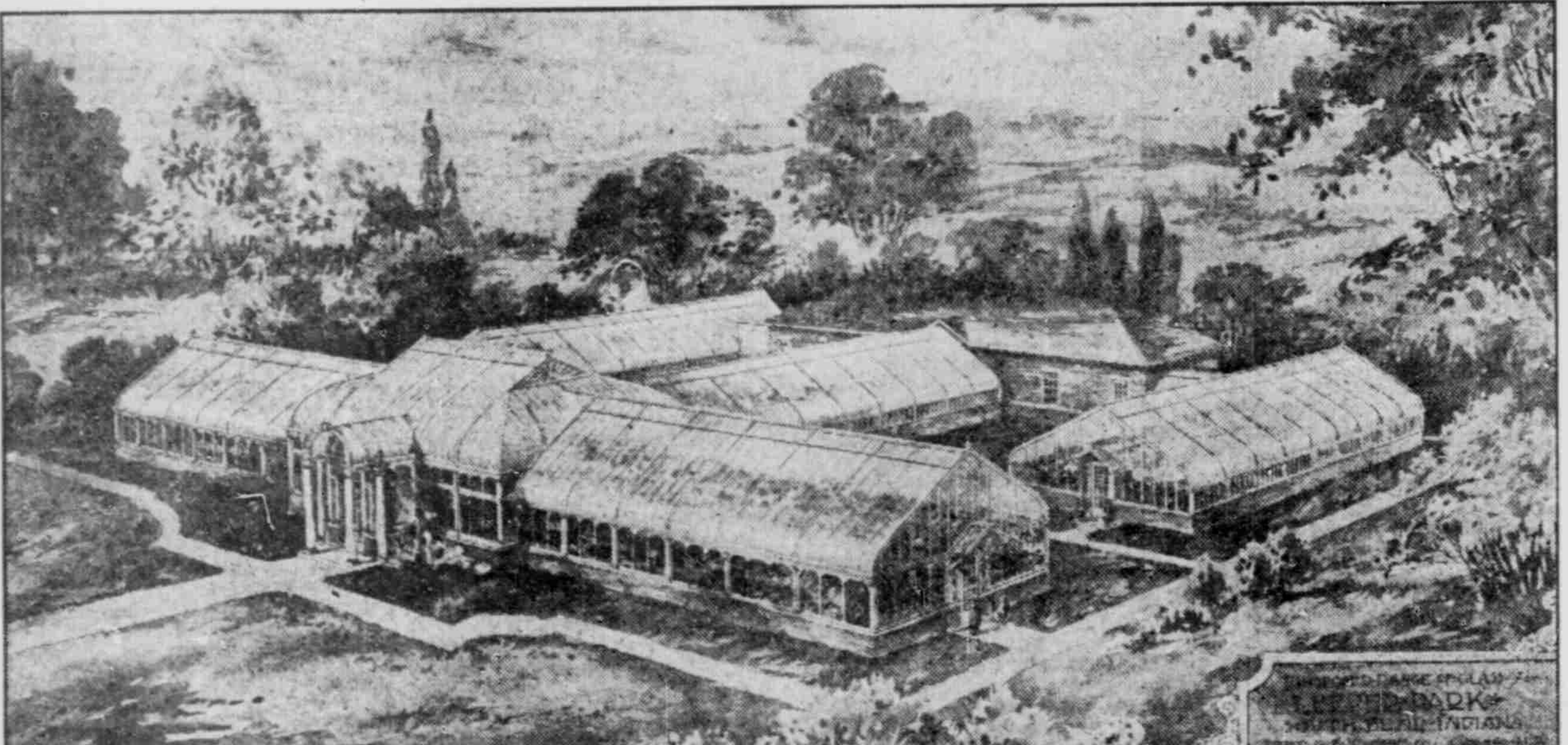
away to Detroit. During his captivity he learned a great deal about the west. This knowledge of the west helped him in later financial difficulties.

After several years' captivity at Detroit, he was traded and finally found his way back to Buck county Pennsylvania.

Map Provides Funds.

With the life of excitement and adventure over, Fitch became a dreamer and while in Pennsylvania, his vision of the steamboat came to him. Fitch could find no one to back him in his proposition. Many condemned him for being a "dreamer and idealist." However, the success of his invention shows he was also a thinker.

Plans Followed by Fulton? Fitch's first boat was 32 ft. long, costing about \$250. The paddle (Continued on page 24).



Design of conservatory such as the board of park commissioners favors for Leeper park.

complete the beautification of a park, flowers and shrubs are to a landscape artist as necessary to a park as are carpentry tools to a householder or brush and easel to an artist.

Flowers Synonymous With Beauty. When touching upon the beauties of nature one speaks of flowers. The painter finishes his masterpiece landscape with just the tint of color to show the best in contrast. The poet sings his lyrics with the rhythm of bursting flower-buds. Flowers in all languages are a synonym of beauty.

Lovers on their strolls over moonlit paths or sitting quietly by the bubbling brook, reach out and pluck flowers by the wayside as a symbol of their devotion to each other. The lad will count the petals of a daisy to ascertain whether his sweetheart

the next springs transplanting. These shrubs are obtained at the city park nursery in Coquillard park.

More Lean-to Has Its Charms.

It is interesting to note where these 40,000 flowers and plants produced and grown annually in the city's parks are seeded and brought into being for purposes of transplanting. The accommodations for what appears an immense task are remarkably small and to all appearances inadequate. In a little greenhouse, nothing more than a small lean-to, situated on the eastern slope of Howard park and against the workmen's building, the perennials and hot-house plants are propagated. On a small piece of ground on St. Louis blvd., cold-frames, a range of glass two or three feet above the level of the ground, produce the 20,000 flowers that are

down through the glazed covering onto the rows of blooms transforms the place into a miniature fairyland.

Propagation of hot house flowers and plants is the principal business here for it is the source from which more than a hundred flower beds in the city's parks have their beginning. The little lean-to has a glory of its own confined within its homely frame.

Cold Frames Inadequate.

The cold frames lying adjacent to St. Louis boulevard and not far distant from Howard park, so named because of the flowers they protect from wind and storm are for warm-weather propagation only, are little more capacious than the little greenhouse. Its supply of 20,000 annuals each year does credit to it as well as to the men who perform the work

Range of Greenhouses Tentative. The present accommodation for the propagation of flowers in Howard park was built during the For-party administration, about 20 years ago. At that time, it was expected to furnish floral beautification development for Howard and Peper parks, then only on the east side of Michigan st. During the Shaffer administration the land to the west of Michigan st. was added to the park. Since then, floral decoration has extended itself to 16 parks.

Since the inception of the park board, in 1910, a proposed greenhouse has been more or less discussed by its members. Two years ago a South Bend citizen proposed a gift to the city of sufficient money to permit the building of a range of glass of substantial size and elegance. Greenhouse architects were